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WESTERN EUROPE

GERMANY

✓ East Zone Government Formation on 7 October of the Soviet-sponsored German Democratic Republic in East Germany is a logical Soviet reaction to developments in West Germany and represents a Soviet effort to regain the initiative in Germany. The new regime, by claiming sovereignty over all Germany, will enable the USSR to counter the attraction of the Bonn Government as the focal point of German unity. Moreover, establishment of the new regime with its capital in Berlin may result in increased Soviet pressure for the withdrawal of the western powers from Berlin. In an attempt to obtain the maximum political advantages from the East German state, the USSR will grant the new regime the appearance of greater independence than the West German Government through such propaganda devices as promises of early troop withdrawal, a separate peace treaty, and diplomatic recognition by the USSR and the Satellites. It is unlikely, however, that the USSR will risk early withdrawal of its troops from the Soviet Zone. Moreover, the Kremlin is unlikely to propose seriously a merger of the East and West governments until the Soviet position throughout Germany is considerably stronger.

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